Cost escalation on Golden Quadrilateral Project

1734. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the much delayed 5,846 km. long Golden Quadrilateral project, due to be completed in December, 2006 is stuck in the last 437 km.;

(b) whether it is a fact that non-performance by new contractors has affected work at the Delhi-Kolkata, Kolkata-Chennai and Mumbai-Chennai corridors and the delay by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has the cost soaring to Rs. 32,000 crore, Rs. 7000 crore more than the approved cost of Rs. 25,000 crore; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take against the non-performers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) 92.5% of the Golden Quadrilateral has been completed by June, 2006 and only 437 km. is to be completed. 96% Golden Quadrilateral is targeted for completion by December, 2006. Balance of 4% stretches are affected due to non-performance of contractor, reaward of terminated contracts and also award of Allahabad bypass in 2004 with completion date in 2007.

The expenditure on Golden Quadrilateral upto 30th June, 2006 is within the total approved cost allowing for escalation. The cost overrun if any, will be known only after the completion of project.

(c) The contractors have been declared non-performing contractors and no new work is being awarded to such contractors.

Special accelerated road development programme for North-Eastern Region

1735. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to improve road condition in North-Eastern Region;

(b) the main features of the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme; and